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Letter dated 27 December 2001 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Somalia, submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Chairman
Counter-Terrorism Committee

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Annex

[Original: English]

Letter dated 26 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

Pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) of the Security Council, I am submitting herewith the report of the Transitional National Government of Somalia regarding implementation of the above-mentioned resolution (see enclosure). The report also identifies some areas where the Transitional National Government requires assistance.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Abdi Hashi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Somali Republic to the United Nations

Enclosure

Report on the Action taken by the Government of Somalia to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001)

The inhumane terrorist attack on September 11 has brought to the forefront new challenges confronting international peace and security. This terrorism is not confined to any one group of people, nor to any one geographical location, or to any particular ethnic or religious group.

Because of its transnational nature, our fight against terrorism must be based on collective action by the international community and the principles of enshrined in the Charter of United Nations. The immediate and strong response by the Security Council and General Assembly and the adoption of Resolution 1373 reflects our collective determination in the fight against international terrorism.

Somalia stands firmly with the international community on the Resolution 1373 of the Security Council against terrorism. As a member of international community, we assert with particular emphasis and deliberation our unwavering commitment to the cause of ending this evil.

To defeat the forces of terror, our collective action must be firm, decisive, and broad based. International Law must be become a binding framework for the defeat of terrorism. At the same time, the international community needs to take action towards the universality of the existing Conventions and other instruments against terrorism.

Suppression and defeat of terrorism requires, among other things, enhancement of understanding among peoples and cultures. It also demands a genuine respect for cultural diversity. Human pluralism should be force of enrichment and inspiration for the community of nations.

The world is perhaps pressed now more than even to sustain a meaningful dialogue among civilizations with the view to promote tolerance and reinforce our abilities to coexist and interact in peace in harmony. The United Nations system remains the appropriate framework and venue for such a proposition.

Terrorism will exploit the absence of justice and political, economic and social imbalances to advance its goals. Therefore, addressing the main causes of despair, frustration and sense of injustices in a serious manner is perhaps one of the effective ways to confront terrorism and preempt its potential appeal and support.

In this connection, Somalia reaffirmed its long standing and clear position which is anchored in its firm policy of rejecting the use of terrorism as a means of achieving political goals, irrespective of any argument advanced, pretext invoked or label given.

That is why the Government and the people of Somalia denounced the terrorist attacks against the United States and continue to denounce terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The President of Somalia, H.E. Abdiqassim Salad Hassan reiterated his government's condemnation of the heinous attacks on the United States on 11 September.

The Prime Minister of the Transitional National Government of Somalia H.E. Ali Khalif Galeyd also unequivocally condemned of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable regardless---of wherever and by whomever committed.

We, in Somalia therefore relate to the pain and suffering of the people of the United States in a very profound and special way. The Somali people have been subjected to a reign of terror perpetrated by the warlords. We know very well what it means to lose loved ones.

The Government of Somalia fully supports Resolution 1373 of the Security Council against terrorism and is firmly committed to translate its provisions into actions. To implement Resolution 1373, The Transitional Government has taken a series of measures directed at against international terrorism.

• On 12 September 2001, the President of Somalia sent a message of condolences to the President of the United States Mr. George W. Bush, immediately after hearing the shocking news of the terrorist attack.

• On 12 September 2001, a message of condolences was sent by the Prime Minister of Somalia on behalf of the Government and the people of the Somalia.

• On 15 September, the Transitional National Assembly passed Proclamation against terrorism.

• During the debate of 56th Session of General Assembly with regard to Elimination of International Terrorism, the Permanent Representative of the Somali Republic to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdi Hashi reiterated his Government's condemnation of the heinous attacks on the United States on 11 September.

• The Somalia Government established a high level Anti-Terrorism Task Force chaired by the Minister of Interior. The duties of this Task Force which is already operational includes the following:

(I) To monitor and identify all forms of terrorist activities in the country and advice the Government on the necessary action against those engaged in such terrorist activities.

(II) To cooperate and work with the international partners fighting against terrorism by sharing intelligence and information on terrorist activities.

(III) To develop intelligence and information gathering networks within the country and establish links with regional and global partners engaged in the fight against terrorism.

(IV) To identify and register all foreigners residing in Somalia and investigate their legal status to either allow them to stay or return to their countries of origin. Any foreign suspected or found to be involved in illegal or criminal activities will be brought to justices.

• The Anti-Terrorism Task Force established after 11 September arrested a Saudi National in Mogadishu. The citizen in question was handed over the to Saudi Authorities. On 17 December 2001, the Task Force also arrested nine foreigners in Mogadishu. They are being investigated by the competent authorities and the results of that investigation will be shared with the United Nations and coalition partners.

• A Commission headed by the Attorney General was established to investigate the activities of the Al-Baraket Company.

• The Somali Government stopped and banned demonstrations in support of Usama Bin Laden by small radical Islamic groups in Mogadishu.

• The President of Somalia delivered anti-terrorist speeches in various functions in the capital and while on tour in the regions of the country. For instance, the President spoke at a ceremony organized in commemoration of the Teachers' Day on November 21 with regard terrorism.

• The religious leaders issued statement condemning the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

• The Transitional National Government conducted campaigns to raise the awareness of the general public against terrorism and its negative impacts on their lives and those of other innocent people else where in the world.

• The Somali Government utilized the mass media and prominent Islamic scholars as partners in the campaign to combat terrorism. This also involves the civil society and traditional leaders in the country.

• On 17 December 2001, the Transitional Government has signed International Convention For The Suppression Of The Financing Terrorism.

• The Somalia Government printed new Somali passports with stringent security features intended to prevent counterfeiting by terrorist and will be in use in due course.

• Other Activities:

(I) The Transitional National Government will arrest any terrorists that may come to Somalia and hand them over to the United Nations and coalition partners.

(II) The Transitional National Government will undertake to provide any facilities to the International Coalition against terrorism and in particularly make available the air and Seaports of Somalia.

(III) The Transitional National Government will sign the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism.

In brief, the Transitional Government has been in office for about a year and half months. It is a government that inherited destroyed institutions and devastated infrastructure. There are two options before the Counter-Terrorism Committee in dealing with the situation in Somalia: to watch the country slide back into anarchy and chaos or to fully support the struggling Somali state by providing the necessary resources to enable it play a meaningful role in the fight against terrorism.

The Somali Government needs urgent and adequate assistance from the international community to be able to comply with Resolution 1373 and in compliance with the 31 October 2001 Security Council Presidential Statement on Somalia:

• **Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of State Institutions:** the Government buildings and facilities were either badly damaged or destroyed during civil war. These building and facilities need urgent rehabilitation and reconstruction to enable the government, parliament and judiciary to execute effectively their state duties and functions and bring back the country to normalcy.

• **Reconciliation and Peace Building:** the intensification of peace and reconciliation process will require a lot of efforts and resources. The Transitional Government earlier stated its intention to make operational the National Commission for Reconciliation and Property Settlement. In this regard, a series of meeting, conferences, seminars and workshops will be conducted. Extensive travel in the regions and districts will be made to raise awareness of not only reconciliation but also negative impact of international terrorism. The media will be used to inform and propagate the importance of peace building, the restoration of law and order and prevent the country to be haven for terrorist.

• **Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration:** The Government is determined to disarm and demobilize the militias by diverting some of them to security forces and creating for the rest job-opportunity in other sectors. The programme of disarming militias will require the technical and financial support of the international community, as the militias are a serious threat to the fragile peace and security in the country.

Lack of security not only hamper the country's economic activities, but also create opportunity terrorist to exploit the absence of law and order to advance its goals. Therefore, supporting the TNG's stated intention to secure the country in a serious manner is perhaps the most effective way to confront terrorism and preempt its potential appeal and support.

• **Other Security Measures:** in order to restore peace and security, establishing a national coast guard unit to patrol land and monitor the Somali coast and waters is vital. Providing training, equipment and fast boats for controlling and protecting the Somali coast from intruders, looters and prevent terrorists to enter the country. Establishing communication links between the coast guard units the central office.

• **Air Traffic:** Putting in place an effective air traffic control system to ensure the safety and the security of airplanes and passengers, departing the country and our air space, while at the same to control terrorist activities and other illegal operations in and around the airports.

• **Legislation**: Updating the existing legislation to be compatible with Resolution 1373 in areas of Penal Code, Immigration, Commercial, Financial and Company Laws.

In conclusion, the Transitional Government will spare no effort in fulfilling its commitment to implement Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001). It is determined to fully cooperate and work with the international coalition against terrorism to create a safer world for all. The Transitional National Government requests assistance from the International Community in areas mentioned above in order to enhance its capacity to contribute to international struggle against terrorism.